IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please amend without prejudice the Abstract as follows:

Abstract Of The Disclosure

A network bridge with a configuration and control unit. The unit is connected to some or all of the functional components of the network bridge via interfaces. The unit may poll and evaluate data within the functional components, including operating data and/or parameters. The unit may manipulate the data and/or parameters within the functional components, based on the evaluation of that data. ~~In a network bridge, means are provided for configuration and control of the network bridge, access being provided, via interfaces, to some or all functional blocks of the network bridge for the polling and evaluation of useful data, operating data, and/or parameters, and for manipulation of those data and/or parameters, and thus of the functional blocks, on the basis of the evaluation.~~